

CLAIMS:

1. A method of coding and/or transmitting EPG (electronic program guides) data documents comprising program and schedule records, characterized in that the program (p₁, p₂, p₃) and schedule records (s₁₁, s₁₂, ... s_{1i}, s₂₁, s₂₂, ..., s_{2i}, s₃₁, s₃₂, ..., s_{3i}) of the EPG data are coded and/or transmitted in an order in which program records and schedule records for programs are interleaved stored and/or transmitted

5 (({p₁, s₁₁, s₁₂, ..., s_{1i}}, {p₂, s₂₁, s₂₂, ..., s_{2i}}, {p₃, s₃₁, s₃₂, ..., s_{3i}}), {s₁₁, s₁₂, ..., s_{1i}, p₁}, {s₂₁, s₂₂, ..., s_{2i}, p₂}, {s₃₁, s₃₂, ..., s_{3i}, p₃})).

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the interleaved program and schedule records are sorted on a time basis.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that schedule records only refer to program records that are ahead in the coding scheme

15 ({p₁, s₁₁, s₁₂, ..., s_{1i}}, {p₂, s₂₁, s₂₂, ..., s_{2i}}, {p₃, s₃₁, s₃₂, ..., s_{3i}}).

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the interleaved program and schedule records are coded in a section which is separate and ahead in the coding scheme from other sections comprising information relating to programs.

20 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the section comprising interleaved program and schedule records is preceded by a section comprising general information.

6. A device comprising an encoder for coding EPG (electronic program guide) data comprising program and schedule records in accordance with the method as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 5.

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7. A receiving device (RC) comprising a decoder for decoding EPG (electronic program guide) data comprising program and schedule records which are coded in accordance with the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5.

5 8. A computer program comprising program code means for performing a method in accordance with the invention when said program is run on a computer, as well as in any computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer-readable medium for performing a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, when said program is run on a computer.